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OPPOSING COLONIALISM AND COMMUNIST IMPERIALISM

JULY 13, 1955.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GREEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 149]

The Committee on Foreign Relations, having had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 149) expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States in its international relations should maintain its traditional policy in opposition to colonialism and Communist imperialism, reports the concurrent resolution favorably with an amendment and recommends that it do pass.

1. MAIN PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION

The main purpose of the resolution is to restate the traditional policy of the United States in support of the efforts of other peoples "to achieve self-government or independence under circumstances which will enable them to assume an equal station among the free nations of the world."

2. BACKGROUND AND COMMITTEE ACTION

The concurrent resolution was introduced in the House May 21, 1955, by Representative John W. McCormack and was passed by the House June 23 by a vote of 367 to 0.

On July 13, the Committee on Foreign Relations heard testimony from Representative McCormack and considered the resolution in executive session. The committee agreed to an amendment to delete the reference to membership in the United Nations and in other international organizations, and then ordered the resolution favorably reported by a vote of 13 to 1.

As it passed the House, the resolution expressed the sense of Congress that—

the United States should administer its foreign policies and programs and exercise its influence *through its membership in the United Nations and in other international*

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organizations so as to support other peoples in their efforts to achieve self-government or independence under circumstances which will enable them to assume an equal station among the free nations of the world. [Italics supplied.]

The committee amendment deleted the phrase in italics in the foregoing paragraph.

The effect of the amendment is to express the sense that American influence to the stated ends should be exercised generally and not solely or particularly through the United Nations and other international organizations. The committee felt that it was preferable to couch the resolution in general terms so as not to give special emphasis to any particular means of accomplishing the objective which is sought.

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RESOLUTION

The resolution does no more than restate the traditional foreign policy of the United States, a country which itself emerged from colonial status to "assume an equal station among the free nations of the world" only after a long and difficult war. The United States quickly recognized the independence of the Latin American Republics when those nations severed their ties with Europe. Moreover, our Government was directly responsible for the independence of Cuba and the Philippines, and has played a role in establishing the independence of such other nations as Panama, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Libya.

In the Pacific Charter of September 8, 1954, the United States joined seven Asian and European nations in declaring that—

they * * * will earnestly strive by every peaceful means to promote self-government and to secure the independence of all countries whose peoples desire it and are able to undertake its responsibilities

Further, in the Mutual Security Act of 1955 it is declared to be the sense of Congress—

that assistance under this Act shall be administered so as to assist other peoples in their efforts to achieve self-government or independence under circumstances which will enable them to assume an equal station among the free nations of the world and to fulfill their responsibilities for self-government or independence.

The urge for independence, and the tide of anticolonial feeling which is now running in many parts of the world, is as strong as that which swept the Western World in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and which in fact was sparked by the American Revolution. Communist propaganda, however, constantly attempts to create the impression that the United States is an imperialist power and that the only true anticolonial power is the Soviet Union. The truth, of course, is precisely the opposite, as is plainly demonstrated by the record of the United States in promoting independence and the record of the Soviet Union in subverting it.

In the circumstances, therefore, it seems to the committee particularly appropriate at this time for the Congress to emphasize once again this traditional American policy. The resolution is, in essence, a reaffirmation of the principles of the Declaration of Independence, a document which, it should be recalled, was described by Abraham Lincoln as meaning "liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but hope for the world, for all future time."

